

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

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P 042300Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 114356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: REDUCING CONSULAR WORKLOADS

REF: (A) LONDON 4392 (B) PARIS 13629 (C) STATE 31803

1. IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF PARIS 13629, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WATSON STATED THAT WHILE THE DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONVINCED
THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT REASONS TO WARRANT CON-
TINUATION OF MONTHLY PRISON VISITATIONS, IN VIEW OF THE
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES POINTED OUT IN LONDON'S 4392, THE
DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT AN
EMBASSY REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF THE MONTHLY PRISON VISIT
REQUIREMENT.

2. SHOULD THE EMBASSY DECIDE TO SUBMIT A WAIVER REQUEST
FOR MONTHLY PRISON VISITS, ITS JUSTIFICATION SHOULD BE
SUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC AND DETAILED TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT
TO MAKE A WELL-CONSIDERED DECISION AND TO JUSTIFY IT, IF
FAVORABLE, TO CONGRESS TO WHOM THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED
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TO MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY PRISON VISITS WORLDWIDE.

3. IN SUBMITTING ITS WAIVER REQUEST, THE EMBASSY SHOULD
BEAR IN MIND THAT THE PRINCIPAL BASIS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
DECISION WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT QUARTERLY PRISON VISITS
WOULD PROVIDE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF PROTECTION AND SERVICE. THE NUMBER

OF MAN-YEARS SAVED BY CONVERTING TO A QUARTERLY SCHEDULE,
WHILE PART OF THE EQUATION, WOULD NOT BE A DETERMINING
FACTOR IF SERVICES TO OR PROTECTION OF THE PRISONERS WERE
TO DETERIORATE IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY.

4. AS POINTED OUT IN STATE 31803, CONDITIONS IN PRISONS
(ADEQUATE FOOD, SPACE AND MEDICAL CARE, HUMANE TREATMENT,
ETC.) ARE ONLY ONE OF THE REASONS THAT AN AMCIT'S
PRISONER'S SITUATION SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED. IN
SUBMITTING ITS WAIVER REQUEST, THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY
SHOULD ADDRESS THE SEVERAL OTHER REASONS ENUMERATED IN
31803 (A) THROUGH (J), AND DEMONSTRATE THAT QUARTERLY
VISITS WOULD SATISFY THESE REASONS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY
DIMINISHING THE DEGREE OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION PROVIDED
BY MONTHLY VISITS. CHRISTOPHER

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